



# Park Openings & Partnerships

Through the support and partnership of the Honorable Mayor Charlie Luken, the Hamilton County Park District, the Parks Foundation, our volunteers, City Council, the City Manager's office, the Urban Forestry Board, the Sister Cities Association, the University of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Public Schools, and other City departments, Cincinnati Parks had many remarkable accomplishments in 2003:

## Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park

- Cincinnati Parks celebrated several events with international partners in 2003. The grand opening of Theodore M. Berry International Park commenced on May 17, 2003. The design of the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park incorporates art and culture in its infrastructure. The concept of reflecting international friendship in the park's design was developed by working with the City of Cincinnati's seven international Sister Cities: Liuzhou, China; Nancy, France; Munich, Germany; Gifu, Japan; Taipei Hsien, Taiwan; Kharkiv, Ukraine; and Harare, Zimbabwe. In 2003 Parks celebrated two extraordinary public art installations that reflect an international cultural exchange.
- The "Seven Vessels Ascending/Descending" sculpture by international artist David Nash was dedicated on June 21, 2003. The collaboration was the first of its kind between Wales, England and Cincinnati, USA.
- The "Clay, Color & Fire" mosaic art at the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park. The project involved participation and collaboration from the seven sister cities and artists both local and internationally.

## Partnership with Hamilton County Park District

- On March 25, the "partnership" signing of the Fernbank lease with the Hamilton County Park District. This partnership will infuse \$2.7 million dollars worth of capital improvements in our park system.
- Parks' staff, in partnership with Hamilton County Park District, held a groundbreaking ceremony to announce the kick-off of the Armleder Park project that will provide \$4 million dollars in capital improvements to the park.

## Neighborhood Partnerships

- The \$678,000 Neighborhood Park Initiative collaboration project with community representatives to renovate 12 neighborhood parks. The ground breaking ceremony was held on April 17, 2003.
- The collaboration with the Parks Foundation to renovate and repatinate the Kilgour Fountain, and the grand opening on June 29, 2003.
- Announced the collaboration with the Parks Foundation to raise \$75,000 for a new overlook in Alms Park with \$75,000 match from the City. The campaign was kicked off on June 19, 2003 with much participation from the community.
- The Park Board completed a \$400,000 renovation of the Fleischmann Gardens Park in Avondale, (with all private funding) and celebrated the reopening on July 25, 2003.



Signing of the Fernbank Partnership

- Hosted the dedication ceremony of the Thornton Memorial Statue that was recast in bronze on October 5, 2003. The statue is of an Eastern Woodlands Indian and has been a Sayler Park landmark for more than 90 years. The project was in partnership with the Sayler Park Community Council.



## Thank You To Our Partners



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Cincinnati Park Board and the following generous sponsors:



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# Nature Education

Educational Services reached 44,083 people in 2003 through public weekend programs, school field trips, summer day camps, after school programs, city wide special events and inner city “at risk” youth nature programs. Nature Education programs were offered at four Cincinnati Park Board nature centers, as well as in parks located in many Cincinnati neighborhoods. Nature Education highlights of 2003:

- Provided 1,271 programs to 44,083 participants residing in Cincinnati and surrounding communities.
- Revenue up 21% from \$99,854 in 2002 to \$121,294 in 2003.
- Nature Education received 835 program evaluations from program participants, teachers, parents and community councils. Over 95% of the evaluations received a rating of Very Good and Excellent.
- Nature Education staff applied for and received a two year \$50,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund to provide funding for the inner city “Nature Connection” program in 2002 and 2003. The second year of this program served 1,791 Cincinnati inner city public school students in 2003.
- The Nature Education staff initiated and developed partnerships to provide programs and bus transportation for needy schools and agencies. Partnerships were formed with Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, Green Acres Foundation, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Hamilton County Park District, Hamilton County Environmental Services, Northside Greenspace, Millcreek Restoration and the Sierra Club. Total value of these partnerships through free buses and program fees is \$14,500.
- The summer free inner city “Nature Next Door” day camp served 3,210 “at risk” youth in the following inner city parks; Inwood Park, Martin Luther King Park, Bond Hill Park, Dempsey Park and Dyer Park. This free program was partially funded with a \$7,500 grant from the Segoe Foundation. New funding for this program was obtained from Saks (\$10,000) in 2003 for the 2004 summer session. In addition, \$7,500 was provided by the Segoe Foundation.
- The Nature Education staff offered 34 separate day camps in 16 different neighborhoods during the summer of 2003. These day camps



Nature Connection



Nature Next Door Day Camp

served children in all 52 Cincinnati neighborhoods. There were 4,655 children who participated in the fee based and free summer 2003 nature camps. (3,210 free camps 1,445 fee camps)

- Provided Cincinnati residents with 175 community nature programs in all major parks in or near the 52 Cincinnati neighborhoods.
- The Nature Education staff presented 385 school field trip programs to over 13,068 students in grades K through 12.
- During 2003, Cincinnati Park's Educational Services section provided 230 programs for classes from 48 CPS schools. A total of 8,248 CPS students and 1,329 adults (teachers and chaperones) were served through programs offered at nature centers or through outreach programs.
- Four quarterly Nature Activity Program Guides were written and bulked mailed to 3,200 program users in 2003.
- A comprehensive School Field Trip Program Guide was written, printed and distributed to 3,200 local teachers.
- There were NO major injuries to employees or program participants in 2003.
- Provided 12 outreach programs to libraries throughout the city. Staff worked with librarians to provide follow-up activities for neighborhood children.
- Presented 12 Girl Scout over night programs at the Caldwell Nature Center. Served 380 girl scouts and produced \$7,000 of revenue.



Nature Next Door



Preschool Day Camp at California Woods



# Krohn Conservatory

Krohn Conservatory and Warder Nursery had an exciting, event-filled year in 2003. In 2003, over 175,000 visitors came to Krohn. Warder Nursery produced many quality plants for Krohn and city parks. Krohn turned 70 on March 26, 2003 and the city celebrated with Cincinnati Parks. The Conservatory was closed during the summer for reglazing of the Desert House and the expansion of the Orchid room. Here are some of the other highlights of Krohn Conservatory:

## Floral Shows

Krohn and Warder presented five floral shows in 2003:

- “The Wedding Show”
- “A garden of Fragrance”
- “The Butterfly Show” - second highest attendance for Butterfly Shows (56,012)
- “Celebrating Two Hundred Years of Ohio History”
- “A Cincinnati Holiday”

## Sponsors (In-Kind and Cash)

The Lazarus Fund of the Federated Department Stores Foundation (\$25,000)  
Time Warner Cable  
Miami Systems Corporation  
United Dairy Farmers  
Scherzinger Pest Control  
The Post  
RPI Graphics  
The Ladislav & Vilma Segoe Trust Family Foundation (\$7,500)  
Dept of Public Services - City of Cincinnati (\$5,000)  
Pete's Photo World Inc.  
Joseph – Beth Book Sellers  
Subaru of Beechmont (\$3,000)  
LaRosa's  
Steelquest  
Norton's Outdoor Advertising  
Midwest Landscape Association  
The Ahrens Family Foundation  
The Alleen Company  
Verdin Bell Company

## Income - 2003

Donations at door - \$42,304  
End of Show sales - \$12,286  
Rentals - \$11,675  
Photo permits - \$2,700  
Butterfly Show Admissions – \$155,972  
Gift Shop Sales - \$149,384



### **Events/Projects/Programs**

Two Bonsai Shows  
Two Orchid Shows  
Fungus Fest  
Spice Day  
Flower, Chocolate and Romance  
Krohn Zone Cart Activities  
Volunteer Potluck Luncheons  
Master Gardeners' Graduation  
Preschool reading programs  
Krohn's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party  
History Wall  
Joint Trial Garden Program with Master gardeners' Program and Operations  
Assisted with the grand opening of T.M.B.I.F. Park – secured souvenirs  
Kids Klub (\$500 grant)  
Butterfly Show Preview Party  
Fall Show Sponsor Recognition Party  
Conservation Lectures (3)  
RFI for Horticultural Work  
Jeff Kapela 's Retirement Party  
Jeff Kapela hired as a contractor (sponsored by donors)  
Brumm Grant Tours (sponsored by donor)  
New Caterpillar Display  
Temporary Orchid Display Installed  
Scarecrows for the Fall Fest at Coney Island

### **Staff**

Jeff Kapela retired on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003.  
Two new florists were hired in July of 2003, Mark House and Mary Ann Phillips.  
Cheryl Lackey, Krohn's volunteer coordinator took another position and Jeseca Davis was hired to fill that position.  
Andrea Schepmann presented a paper on the Butterfly Show at the Invertebrates in Captivity Conference in Tucson, Arizona.  
Ruthann Spears was nominated for manager of the year in 2003.

### **Tours**

Besides the tours that Krohn's volunteers give to school groups, garden clubs and the general public, staff did many tours for colleges, professional groups and other garden or conservatories.  
Wilmington College



Typical Day at the 2003 Butterfly Show

### **Tours Cont'd**

University of Cincinnati  
Langdon Group  
Master Gardeners  
Lincoln Park Zoo  
Franklin Conservatory

### **Training**

All staff met the required training hours for 2003.  
Mark House and Mary Ann Phillips acquired their pesticides' license.  
All staff participated in training for the volunteers, tour guides and Krohn Zone Cart.

### **Press Coverage**

Press coverage was very good in 2003. Krohn received coverage on every show, and the press coverage was extensive this past year for the Butterfly Show.  
A sponsor, Norton Outdoor Advertising, donated billboard space at eight different locations around the city for the Butterfly Show.

Andrea Schepmann and Ruthann Spears appeared weekly during the butterfly show on WCPO giving a Butterfly Award to people that had overcome an obstacle in their life.



# Krohn Programs & Volunteers

**K**rohn Conservatory had a very busy and accomplishing year. Looking back on volunteer service hours for things such as holiday ambassadors, End of Show sales, Horticulture Helpers, Craft Group, Tour Guides, Butterfly Show, Krohn Zone Cart and many other service projects... Krohn would not have been able to function without dedicated volunteers.



Krohn's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake

Year after year the volunteers show their compassion for Cincinnati Parks every time they donate their services. On most occasions, volunteers are the first person that our guests see when they come to the Conservatory. The volunteers are truly Ambassadors for Cincinnati Parks.

## Butterfly Show 2003

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Butterfly Show brought 56,012 people out to Krohn Conservatory. That is approximately 6,000 more people from the previous year. This was the first year that native and tropical butterflies were flying in free flight together. There were approximately 75 species.

There were butterflies from North America, Costa Rica, South America and Southern Asia featured. While the adventure didn't stop with the butterflies, visitors were also able to witness butterflies "hatch" in the butterfly nursery. There was also a family craft room.

The volunteer duties consisted of working in the display room as a greeter, door guard, stamping hands or giving information. They also assisted in the craft room and took surveys.

## The Craft Group

The craft group contributed approximately 118 hours of service. They made and repaired all of the natural ornaments that we use annually for the Holiday tree at Krohn Conservatory. This year, the craft group decorated the Holiday tree on December 3. They also sold some of their handcrafted ornaments in the Krohn gift shop. The ladies of the craft group do an exceptional job of anything they do. They also held a craft day Monday, December 15, 2003.

## Tour Guides

The tour guides are truly ambassadors for Krohn Conservatory. They completed 96 hours for tours in 2003. The Krohn Conservatory generally give tours Monday – Friday to school groups, brownie troops, girl scouts, garden clubs, senior groups and many more. Thanks to the Celia Brumm grant, inner city schools are able to visit the Conservatory so that they can learn about the rainforest and food that we eat from the rainforest.

The tour generally last 45 minutes to an hour. The Conservatory tour guides receive on site training from Krohn staff and receive information on plant material. Many students and teachers write letters of thanks and appreciation to the wonderful job that the tour guides are doing.

## End of Show Sale

The end of show sale is popular to the public because it is their chance to come and purchase some of their show favorite plants. We start the sale at 10:00am and often there is a line by 9:30. Krohn staff and volunteers worked very hard the mornings of the sales to organize plant material, prices and locations. Volunteers generally assist the guest with taking plants to their vehicles and their selection process. We really depend on the volunteers to help during this time. They contributed 101 hours in 2003.

## Special Events

Throughout the year, Krohn had several special events including the Butterfly Bash, Potluck luncheons, Halloween Party, Krohn's 70th Anniversary and the Fungus Fest. These events wouldn't have been as success if it weren't for the assistance of the volunteers.



Mr. Carden, Renata & Sophia Scanio

The Butterfly Bash was actually a thank you party for the volunteers for all of the hard work and many hours that they all put into the Butterfly Show. The Halloween Party was something new that we tried and may repeat again. It was something educational and exciting.

## Bird Feeder

The bird feeder volunteers are a mother and young son tag team. They started in July of 2003. They come in once every week for about 20 minutes to check on the bird feeders to make sure they are not empty. They have contributed 7.5 hours of service.

## Gift Shop

Mary Ann Bryan has been the gift shop volunteer for the year of 2003. She assists the gift shop staff with bagging customer's things and suggesting sales.

She contributed 132 hours this year. She comes in on Thursday's and works about 4 hours a day.



Mary Ann Bryan

## Bonsai

The bonsai society of greater Cincinnati provided volunteers to come out and care for the Bonsai collection at Krohn Conservatory. The members of the society handle all maintenance work such as pruning, replanting and replacement trees. They have contributed over 208 hours of service. They have held bonsai workshops throughout the year. Often, if the members are here during tours, they speak with the groups about the art of Bonsai. The Bonsai Society also held a Bonsai workshop for the Krohn Kids Club. They taught the children how to prune, water and general maintenance of the trees.



Dave Radlinski



# Krohn Programs & Volunteers

## Krohn Zone Cart

The Krohn Zone Cart is off to a good start. The funding for the cart is provided by a grant from the Dornette Foundation. It is a “hands on” display that allows the visitors to not only read and see different types of information but to also touch it. Every month, the cart has something different to highlight. Topics include items in Krohn’s collection that correspond with a variety of displays and shows. This year, the volunteers provided 135 hours of service staffing the cart.



Mary Ellen Begehr & Billie Nickson

## Horticulture Helpers

The Horticulture Helpers contributed the most volunteer hours next to the Butterfly Show volunteers. This outstanding group of volunteers contributed over 1199 hours of service for the year 2003. Krohn Conservatory and Warder Nursery greatly appreciates all of the hard work that these volunteers provide.

The duties of the Horticulture Helpers included deadheading plants, exchanging the old plants for new plants in the Showroom, potting, watering and general maintenance of the two facilities. They are extremely important during show change and End of Show Sale. With the big helping hand that they volunteers

give, it helps allow the florist to devote more time to their designated areas to beautify the Conservatory.

## Warder Nursery

Warder Nursery is the Cincinnati Park Board’s big greenhouse that produces ninety percent of the bedding plants used in the city parks and parkways. They also grow the plant material for Krohn’s floral displays.

The Warder volunteer duties are very similar to Krohn Horticulture Helper duties including potting, watering, labeling and general maintenance.

Paul Braun is a regular Warder Nursery volunteer that contributes about 20 hours a month to Warder nursery. For the year of 2003, there were 310 hours contributed to the up keep of all of the plant material raised at Warder Nursery.



Paul Braun



# Grounds for Celebration

**Rated as One of the Top Urban Park Systems in the Nation (2000 & 2003)**

- 4-Star Rating by Trust for Public Land

**Ranked by Citizens of Cincinnati as Top City Service (2<sup>nd</sup> only to Fire/EMS)**

**Designated as Tree-City USA for 23 Consecutive Years in 2003**

**Received 7 Civic Garden Center Beautification Awards**

**Received *City Beat Magazine* 2003 “Reader Picks” Awards**

- “Best Use of Public Funds”
- “Best Hiking Trail” – French Park
- “Best Park” – Eden Park

**Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park**

- Ohio Parks & Recreation Association Park Area Development Award for developments of more than \$5 million value)
- Post Corbett Award for Clay, Color & Fire mosaic project (to Jan Brown Checco)
- Cincinnati Design Award (to Kolar and Human Nature)

**“Miracle of Parks” – Virtual Tour Video**

- Received Ohio Parks Recreation Association – Technical Marketing Award





# Park Improvements

Infrastructure renovation, park enhancement and restoration, facility repair and management, and long range planning and design, are the central focus of the Planning & Design Division. Park improvement projects in 2003 included the following:

- 1) Capital improvements at Hyde Park Square including:
  - Restoration of the historic Kilgour Fountain
  - Renovation of utilities
  - Repair of walkways
  - Landscape enhancements
- 2) Restoration of the historic Indian Statue at Sayler Park's Thornton Triangle
- 3) Completion and opening of Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park
- 4) Installation and dedication of two works of art at TBIFP:
  - "Clay, Color & Fire" mosaic tile project
  - "Seven Vessels Ascending/Descending" sculpture by David Nash



Clay, Color & Fire" mosaic tile project

- 5) Installation of Taiwan Garden thanks to a donation from Tapei-Tsien
- 6) Capital improvements at Krohn Conservatory including:
  - Reglazing the Desert House and Orchid House
  - Expansion of the Orchid House
  - Adding shading and screening
  - Egress improvements
- 7) Completion of Fleishmann Garden improvements



Fleishmann Garden

- 8) Completion of Neighborhood Park Improvements including:
  - Glenway Park walkways
  - Drake Park walk and pavilion access
  - Meyer Garden walkway
  - Mt. Echo roadways and steps
  - Jergens Park playground
  - Kennedy Heights Park service drive/walkway
  - Piatt Park landscape

- 9) Reconstruction of Ault Park garden walks & restoration of Pavilion walls
- 10) Repaving California Woods roadway
- 11) Executing partnership agreement with Hamilton County Parks for their improvement and maintenance of Fernbank Park
- 12) Groundbreaking for the first phase construction of Armleder/Little Miami River Park
- 13) Execution of agreement with Cincinnati Public Schools for the construction of a new East End School based on adding greenspace properties to Park's inventory, and committing CPS to perpetual site maintenance and construction of a bike trail
- 14) Continued progress on the design of Central Riverfront Park
- 15) Design and publication of Parks' first Gift Catalog
- 16) Initiation of design for first phase implementation of Stanbery Park plan
- 17) Initiation of design for rebuilding Hopkins Park
- 18) Design of new overlook for Alms Park
- 19) Application for grants for enhancements of Central Parkway & for three mile long Kirby Valley Trail
- 20) Completion of 70 capital improvement projects at 25 parks totaling \$700,000 (not counting the above projects in the total).
- 21) Completion of 1,259 preventive maintenance tasks and 2,715 repair projects by Facility staff, and another 46 repair projects by contractors
- 22) Development of a Washington Park improvement strategy



Kilgour Fountain Dedication



Clean, Safe, Reliable, Green & Beautiful

Clean...  
Safe...  
Reliable...  
Green...  
Beautiful...



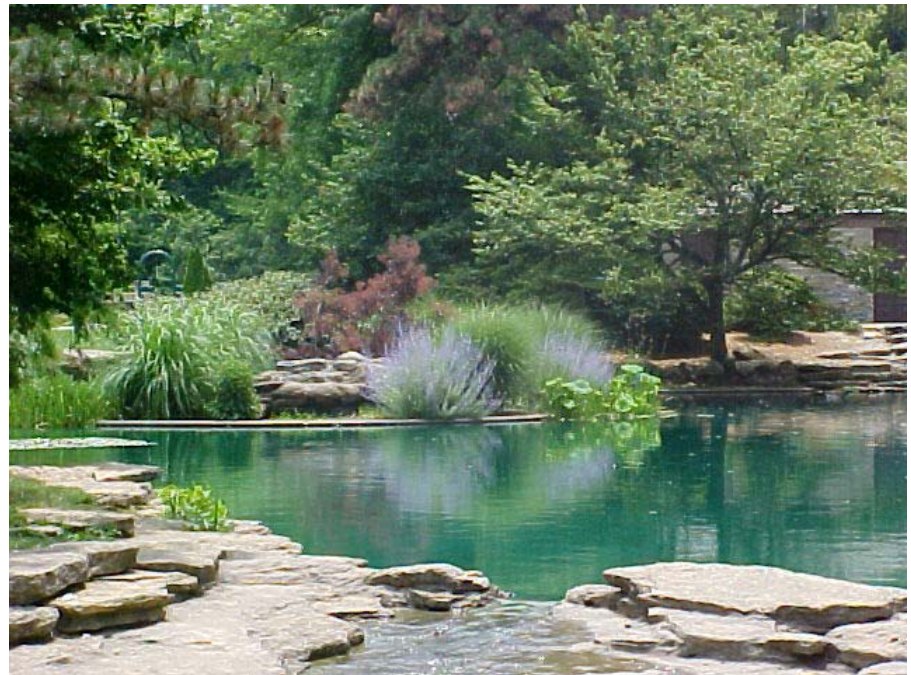
Torrence Parkway Garden



# Clean, Safe, Reliable, Green & Beautiful

## Clean...

- Removed graffiti from parks within 24 hours when reported
- Over 360 hours spent painting and refurbishing picnic tables
- Replaced over 100 grills
- Over 615 hours spent removing honeysuckle
- Over 160 hours spent applying mulch
- Removed approximately 150 truckloads of litter from various parks
- Cleaned and winterized fountains



Eden Park – Twin Lakes



# Clean, Safe, Reliable, Green & Beautiful

## Safe...

- Provided \$678,000 for the Neighborhood Park Initiative collaboration to renovate 12 neighborhood parks
- Completed renovation of Fleischmann Garden
- Initiated the design of \$714,000 of new capital infrastructure to Hopkins Park, funded with a \$500,000 Federal grant
- Weekly inspected all 52 playgrounds
- Provided \$330,000 for Phase I renovation of Stanbery Park
- Launched the neighborhood Parks Initiative with \$200,000 of private funds matched with \$200,000 of Park Board funds



California Woods Nature Preserve



# Clean, Safe, Reliable, Green & Beautiful

## Reliable...

- Responded to and resolved 1,476 Service Requests from citizens
- Responded to and resolved 529 storm emergencies
- Responded to and issued 2,400 reservations and permits for park events
- Conducted approximately 1,200 Nature Education programs, with a total of 40,315 participants
- Visitor Center responded to over 18,000 phone calls
- Maintained 120 Park buildings and carried out over 1,200 PM tasks



Ault Park Playground



# Clean, Safe, Reliable, Green & Beautiful

## Green...

- Pruned 279 Trees
- Mulched 772 Trees
- Fertilized 564 Trees
- Ground 794 Tree stumps
- Completed 91.5 hours on Trail work
- On average, completed two mow cycles per week in all parks
- Redesigned and implemented new landscape planting at Piatt Park



Eden Park – Krohn Conservatory



# Clean, Safe, Reliable, Green & Beautiful

## Beautiful...

- Refurbished, restored and dedicated the over 90 years old Thornton Memorial Statue
- Refurbished, restored and dedicated the Kilgour Fountain. Also contributed to the infrastructure repairs to the sidewalks and landscape
- Groundbreaking and celebration ceremonies held to announce the Alms Park Overlook, Armleder Park, Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park, David Nash and the Clay, Color, & Fire artworks



Lytle Park Garden